

3.
76.
THE
AGREEMENT
AND
RESOLUTION

of the
Ministers of CHRIST
Associated within the City of
Dublin, and Province of *Leinster*; for
furthering of a real and thorough
REFORMATION,
According to the written Word of *GOD*.

Phil. 3. 15, 16.

Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: And if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you. Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the *SAME RULE*, let us mind the same thing.

Cecil. Cyprian. de Unit. Eccles. Cathol. 3. 10.

Ad Pacis premium venire non possunt, qui pacem Domini Discordie favore vuperunt.

A Declaration of the Elders &c. at the Savoy, Octob. 12.

1648. p. 27. § XXIX.

Such Reforming Churches as consist of persons sound in the faith, and of conversation becoming the Gospel, ought not to despise the Communion of each other. so far as may consist with their own Principles respectively, though they walk not in all things according to the same Rules of Church-Order.

DUBLIN, Printed by *W. Bladen*,
Anno Dom. 1659.

THE

AGREEMENT

AND

RESOLUTION

of the

Minister of CHRIST

in the City of

London

in the year of our Lord

1794

and of our Independence

the 4th day of July

1776

in the year of our Lord

1794

and of our Independence

the 4th day of July

1776

(1)



THE AGREEMENT

and Resolution of the

MINISTERS of CHRIST

Within the City of Dublin, and

Province of LEINSTER, whose Names
are subscribed, in Order to their entering into,
and walking together in, A *Brotherly Association* : Had the 22. day of *February* 1658.
at *Dublin* ; for furthering of a *real and thorough*
Reformation of Persons Families and Con-
gregations, in all matters of Religion, accord-
ing to the written Word of GOD :

Whereas it is clearly manifest ,



First, That, All the faithfull Saints and
Servants of **JESUS CHRIST**
within this Nation, should
strive-together for the Faith of the Gospel (a), The purity of
Gods Worship (b), The inte-
grity of Christs Discipline (c), The regular Ad-
ministration of all Gospel-Ordinances (d), The
Oneness of Gods People in Heart and Way (e),
And their Progress in all Spirituall unto Perfe-
ction (f).

Phil. 1. 27. Jude 24.
Joh. 9. 10. 11. 2 Tim. 1. 13. Exod. 20. 3. 4.
Joh. 4. 24. Mal. 3. 4. Rev. 14. 1 to 6. 32.
Mat. 28. 18. 19. Luk. 1. 32. 33.
Mat. 18. 15. to 17. 1 Cor. 5. 2 Cor. 2. 6.
Titus 1. 5. 1 Corinth. 11. 34. and
Gal. 6. 16. 1 Cor. 1. 10. Phil. 3. 1. 2. 3. Eph. 4. 1 to 7. Jer. 32. 39.
Ezek. 11. 19. Acts 4. 32. & 2. 41. 42. Phil. 3. 16. 1 Pet. 3. 18. 2 Thes. 1. 3. 4.
Eph. 2. 21. 22. & 4. 11. to 17. Phil. 3. 12. 13. 14. 15.

A 2

Secondly,

Secondly, *That*, Not only the Civil-Magistrates in their Place (g): Nor onely Parents, Masters of Families, and Particular Persons in their Capacities (h); But also and especially The *Ministers of Christ* in their Stations, are peculiarly obliged in Conscience, According to the Word of God, to endeavor the Redress of all sinful evils with 2 Chron. 29. & 30. & 31. Truth, Holiness, and Righteousness, by the Pure and Ple- nary Administration of all Christs Ordinances (i). Thirdly, *That also*, Such Publick and arduous Under- takings (unto which we humbly acknowledg our great Unworthiness, Weakness and Insufficiencie (k)) will prove far more facill and successful in the Hands of Mi- nisters *Associated*, than in their single capacity (l)

1. Rom. 13. 3, 4. 2. Exod. 32. 25. 3. Num. 25. 4, 5. 4. Psal. 101. 8. 5. 2 King. 18. 3, 4, 5, 6. 6. with 2 Chron. 29. & 30. & 31. 7. 2 Kin. 23. with 2 Chr. 34. & 35. 8. 1 Gen. 18. 18. 9. Deut. 6. 4. to 10. Psal. 101. throughout. 10. Eph. 6. 4. Tit. 2. 1, 11, 12. 11. Matth. 28. 18, 19, 20. Rev. 3. 1. &c. 12. &c. 18. &c. and 3. 1. &c. 14. &c. 1 Tim. 3. 5. 2 Tim. 4. 1, 2. Acts 20. 28. k. 1 Cor. 3. 5 & 2. 16 & 4. 7. 1 Gal. 1. 9. Luk. 10. 1. Acts 2. 1, 2, 3, 4, &c. and 3. 1 &c. and 5. 29. and 6. 2. &c. and 8. 24. &c. and 13. 1, 2, 3, 4. and 15. 6. to 36.

Therefore,

We *MINISTERS* of *JESUS CHRIST* in the City of *Dublin* and Province of *Leinster*, sincerely desiring to *seek the things of Christ* before our own affairs (m), And preferring the Spiritual Peace of *JERUSALEM*, the City and Church of God, *above the top of our joy* (n), Do unanimously Resolve and Agree;

1. Phil. 2. 10, 11. with 1 Cor. 10. 24. & Phil. 2. 4. 2. Psal. 137. 3. 6. & 122. 6, 7, 8, 9.

I. To Decline and Abhor all Blasphemy (o), Here- sic (p), Schism (q), Superstition (r), Pride (s), Pro- faneness (t), Ungodliness (u), Unrighteousness (x), In- temperance (y), and All other the Manifest sinful fruits of the flesh (z). As also to disavow, and with all Pru- dence and faithfulness (as we have just Occasion) to

1. Col. 3. 8. 2. Exod. 20. 7. 3. Matth. 12. 31. 4. Mark 7. 22. 5. Acts 13. 45. 6. 2 Cor. 13. 5. 7. Tit. 3. 1. 8. 2 Pet. 2. 1. 9. Exod. 20. 3. 10. 1 Cor. 1. 11. & 3. 3, 4. 11. Rom. 16. 17. 12. Exod. 20. 4, 5, 6. 13. Acts 17. 23. 14. Col. 2. 20, 21, 22, 23. 15. Mark 7. 22. 16. 1 Joh. 2. 16. 17. Isa. 28. 13. 18. Ezek. 16. 49. 19. 1 Tim. 1. 9. 20. Jer. 23. 15. 21. Heb. 12. 16. 22. Ezek. 24. 43. 23. Tit. 2. 12. 24. Rom. 1. 18. 25. Jude 15. 26. Tit. 2. 12. 27. 1 Joh. 5. 17. 28. Rom. 1. 18. and 2. 8. 29. Rom. 13. 12, 13. 30. Eph. 5. 18. 31. 1 Cor. 6. 9, 10. 32. Gal. 5. 19, 20, 21. 33. 1 Corin. 6. 9, 10. 34. 1 Tim. 3. 1, 2, 3, 4. 35. Rom. 1. 28. to the end.

Oppose

Oppose Popery (a), Prelacy (b), (not onely as it is described in *The Solemn League and COVENANT* (c); but also as it is cried up by some in these days under the specious disguise of *Moderated, Regulated or Primitive Episcopacy*, And all inventions of Man tending thereunto), Arminianism (d), Socinianism (e), Antinomianism (f), Familism (g), Seekerism (h), Quakerism (i),

Mark 10. 41. to 46. 1 Peter 5. 3. 3 John 9. 10. 2 Thel. 2. 3. to 13. 1 Tim. 3. 1, 2. &c. 1. 1. 5. with Verse 7. And 2. According to the judgment of antient and learned Writers: as Ambrose, Theodoret, Hierome. Ambrose to this effect saith thus; *Primi Presbyteri appellabantur Episcopi, ut recedente uno sequens succederet, sed quia exasperant sequentes Presbyteri inveniri indigni ad Primatus tenendos, immutata est ratio prospiciente Concilio; ut non Ordo sed meritum crearet Episcopum, multorum sacerdotum iudicio constitutum, ne indignus temere usurparet, & esset multis scandalum.* Amb. Com. in cap. 4. ad Ephes. Theodoret; Presbyterum ab Episcopo *etiam* & *etiam* non d. s. ferre: Sed qui Presbyter est, Episcopum dici, quatenus in uno aliquo actu, in quo a Presbyterio electus est, praestantui, quia in Ecclesia nihil *etiam* fieri debet. Theodor. lib. 4. de Fab. Hæret. Arian. Hierome; Apud veteres iidem Episcopi & Presbyteri fuerunt, &c. Hieronym. Epistol. ad Oceanum. Apostolus perspicue docet eosdem esse Presbyteros & Episcopos. Hier. ad Evagrium. Idem est Presbyter qui & Episcopus; & antequam Diaboli instinctu studia in Religione fierent, & diceretur in Populis, Ego sum Pauli, Apollo, Cepha, 1 Cor. 1. Communi Presbyterorum consilio Ecclesie gubernabantur. Postquam vero unusquisque quos baptizaverat, suos esse non Christi putabat: in toto orbe decretum est ut unus de Presbyteris electus ceteris superponeretur, ad quem omnis cura Ecclesie pertineret, ut schismatum semina tollerentur. — *Ita* ergo Presbyteri sciunt se Ecclesie consuetudine Episcopo sibi Prepositi subjectos esse: ita Episcopi noverint se, consuetudine magis quam Dominica dispositionis veritate, Presbyteris esse majores, & in commune debere Ecclesiam regere. Hier. Com. in Ep. ad Titum. Published by authority of Parliament &c. An. 1643. Against which see; G. Ames. Coronis, & Antisynodalia, D. Twiss. Vindie. Grat. De Scientia media, & contra Corvin. P. Du Moulin Anatom. Armin. Twiss. and Davenant against Hoayd, &c. Against which see; Antiphotinianism, &c.; per Sigmannum; Vindicie Evangelice by Dr Owen, H. Grot. de Satisfactione Christi; Compendium Socinianismi Confut. à Clopenburg. Antisocinianism by N. Cheynney; Dr Fran. Cheynel's Hist. of Socinianism, Beckmanni Exercitat. contra Socin. f Against which see; Mr Anth. Burges his Vindie. Legis. Dr Taylor of the use of the Law, Gataker against Saltmarsh. i Against which see; Beckmanni Exercitat. contra Socin. Mr Bail's Dissuasive from Errors, &c. h Against which see; Mr Bridge's Vindication of Ordinances; Mr Symonds Vindication, &c. Matth. 28. 18, 19, 20. i Against which see; The perfect Pharisee, &c. Quakers censured, by Mr Eaton.

2 Against which see; *Antiscripturism* (^k), *Erastianism* (^l); and what ever else see; *Ant. R.* is contrary to the acknowledging of the Truth which is *vet. If 130g. ad* according to Godliness (^m).
S. Scriptur.

1 Against which see; *Jus Divin. Regim. Ecclesiast.* by sundry Ministers of Christ in the City of London; Chap. 9. *Aaron's Rod* blossoming, &c. by Mr George Gillespie, m Tit. 1. 1. 1 Tim. 1. 10. 2 Tim. 2. 16, 17. Tit. 1. 9, 10, 11.

2 1 Tim. 4. 16. II. *To take heed to our selves, and Familyes* (ⁿ);
 and 3. 2, 4, 5. *Holding Faith and a good Conscience* in all things with
 1 Tim. 1. 18, all unblameableness (^o); That herein we may approve
 19. and 3. 2. our selves *Patterns of good Works, and examples to the*
 2 Cor. 6. 3. *Flock* (^p): And in *Doctrine shewing Incorruptness,*
 1 Thes. 2. 10. *Gravity, Sincerity, Sound speech that cannot be con-*
 1 Tit. 2. 7. *demned* (^q); *Preaching the Word, being instant in sea-*
 Pet. 5. 3. Phil. *son and out of season, Reprooving, Rebuking, Exhort-*
 3. 17. 9 Tit. 2. *ing with all Long-suffering and Doctrine* (^r); That in
 7, 8. 1 2 Tim. *doing this, We may both save our selves and them that*
 4. 1, 2, 3, 4. *bear us* (ⁱ). And if any of us walk otherwise, *not to*
 1 Tim. 4. 16. *suffer Sin one upon another* (^t): But with the spirit of
 1 Lev. 19. 17. *Meekness, Love, and Faithfulness, To Advise, Admo-*
 Eph. 5. 11. *nish, and Restore one another* (^u); *That the Ministry*
 1 Gal. 6. 1, 2. *be not blamed and dishonoured* (^x). And We shall to
 Eph. 5. 11. *earnestly mind the things that most conduce to the*
 2 2 Cor. 6. 3 *Peace, Unity, and Edification of the Churches* (^y),
 1 Rom. 14. 19. *That whereunto We have already attained, We shall walk*
 Eph. 4. 1, 2, 3, &c. Phil. 2. *by the same Rule, and mind the same thing* (^z), *both in*
 1, 2, 3, 4, &c. *our Preaching and practice in the Church-Assemblies:*
 2 Phil. 3. 16. *That, so far as may be, We may tender Our selves, both*
 2 Ezek. 11. 19. *unto one another and to the Congregations, of one*
 Jer. 32. 39. *Heart and of one Way* (^a).

III. *To endeavour the Practising of all Christian*
Dutyes, and Performance of all brotherly Offices of
 1 Phil. 4. 8. *Love reciprocally one to another* (^b): *Forbearing all*
 Col. 3. 12, 13, *termes or Names of Reproach, All sharp invectives,*
 14. Phil. 2. *Bitter Reflections, and other Occasions of just Provo-*
 1, 2, 3, 4. *cation and Offence* (^c); *Covering one anothers sayings*
 1 Eph. 4. 3, 13, 2. *and infirmities in Love* (^d); *Modestly vindicating one*
 1 Gal. 6. 1, 2. *another's Reputation, wherein we may.* (^e); *That un-*
 1 Exod. 20. 16. *feigned brotherly Love may live and continue amongst*
 1 Tim. 5. 19. *us* (^f).
 2 Heb. 13. 1.

IV. To give diligence (through the Lords gracious Assistance) to promote, in every FAMILY under our spiritual care and inspection respectively, The Exercise of Gods worship and Christian Religion in the Course of these too much neglected *FAMILY-DUTIES*; (viz.) Reading of the Holy Scriptures (g), Prayer (h), Singing of Psalmes (i), Repetition of Sermons (k), Catechizing (l), Godly Conferences (m), and due Sanctification of the *LORDS-DAYES* (n): That every Family may be as *A little Church of JESUS CHRIST* (o).

^g Deut. 6. 4. to 10. and 11. 18, 19. ^h 1 Tim. 3. 14, 15. ⁱ Jer. 10. 25. ^k Dan. 6. 10, 11. ^l Acts 10. 2. ^m Luke 9. 18. ⁿ Deut. 6. 4. to 10. ^o Eph. 6. 4. ¹ Prov. 22. 6 margin. ² Exod. 12. 26, 27. ³ Gen. 18. 19. ⁴ Eph. 6. 4. ⁵ Eph. 6. 4. ⁶ Deut. 11. 18, 19. ⁷ Exod. 20. 8, 9, 10, 11. ⁸ Deut. 5. 12, 13, 14, 15. ⁹ Rom. 16. 5. ¹⁰ 1 Cor. 16. 19. ¹¹ Col. 4. 15. ¹² Phil. 2. ¹³ Gen. 18. 19. ¹⁴ Josh. 24. 15. ¹⁵ Psal. 101. 2, 3, 6, 7.

V. To improve our Talents Publickly and privately (P) (as the good hand of our God shall enable us) with all diligence and faithfulness from time to time, to exalt and establish the right *REFORMATION* and Spiritual Prosperity of all the Congregations under our respective Care and Oversight, in all the things of Christ (q).

Accounting all such Congregations *True VISIBLE CHURCHES* of Christ, As consist of a sufficient number of Persons, who are *visible Saints*, or *Saints by Calling* (r), Sound in the Faith (s), and walking together *in the fellowship of the Gospel* (t), Them and their Children (u). Now this *REFORMATION* and prosperity of all such respective Congregations We shall endeavour as followeth, (viz.)

¹ Phil. 1. 5. ² Acts 2. 41, 42, 46, 47. ³ Eph. 4. 15, 16. ⁴ Col. 3. 19. ⁵ Eph. 2. 19, 20, 21, 22. ⁶ Gen. 17. 4. 7, 8, 10, to 15. ⁷ Acts 2. 38, 39. and 5. 14. ⁸ 2 Cor. 7. 14. ⁹ Acts 15. 5, 10. ¹⁰ Matth. 28. 18, 19. and 19. 13, 14. ¹¹ Mark 10. 14. ¹² Luke 8. 15, 16.

I By Catechizing the yonger and weaker sort (as we may with best conveniency) on the *LORDS-DAYES* Publickly in the Principles of the Doctrine of Christ (x), according to the *Shorter* or *Larger Catechism*, Advised by the *ASSEMBLY* of *DIVINES* (unless some

¹ Deut. 6. 4. to 10. and 11. 18, 19. ² 1 Tim. 3. 14, 15. ³ Jer. 10. 25. ⁴ Dan. 6. 10, 11. ⁵ Acts 10. 2. ⁶ Luke 9. 18. ⁷ Deut. 6. 4. to 10. ⁸ Eph. 6. 4. ⁹ Rom. 16. 5. ¹⁰ 1 Cor. 16. 19. ¹¹ Col. 4. 15. ¹² Phil. 2. ¹³ Gen. 18. 19. ¹⁴ Josh. 24. 15. ¹⁵ Psal. 101. 2, 3, 6, 7.

¹ Acts 20. 20, 21. ² Rev. 2. & 3. Chapters, throughout. ³ Mat. 23. 18, 19. ⁴ Acts 20. 18, 19. ⁵ 20, 21, 26, 27. ⁶ 1 Cor. 1. 2. ⁷ Rom. 1. 7. ⁸ 2 Cor. 1. 1. ⁹ Phil. 1. 1. ¹⁰ Eph. 1. 1. ¹¹ Psal. 50. 5. ¹² 2 Tim. 1. 13. ¹³ Eph. 4. 12. to 17. ¹⁴ Tit. 1. 13. ¹⁵ Col. 2. 18, 19. ¹⁶ 1 Tim. 1. 19. ¹⁷ 20. Tit. 3. 10. ¹⁸ Eph. 2. 19, 20, 21, 22. ¹⁹ 2 Cor. 7. 14. ²⁰ Acts 15. 5, 10. ²¹ Heb. 5. 12, 13. ²² 14. and 6. 1, 2. ²³ 1 Cor. 3. 2, 3. ²⁴ 1 Cor. 12. 13. ²⁵ 1 Cor. 12. 13. ²⁶ 1 Cor. 12. 13. ²⁷ 1 Cor. 12. 13. ²⁸ 1 Cor. 12. 13. ²⁹ 1 Cor. 12. 13. ³⁰ 1 Cor. 12. 13.

¹ Heb. 5. 12, 13. ² 14. and 6. 1, 2. ³ 1 Cor. 3. 2, 3. ⁴ 1 Cor. 12. 13. ⁵ 1 Cor. 12. 13. ⁶ 1 Cor. 12. 13. ⁷ 1 Cor. 12. 13. ⁸ 1 Cor. 12. 13. ⁹ 1 Cor. 12. 13. ¹⁰ 1 Cor. 12. 13. ¹¹ 1 Cor. 12. 13. ¹² 1 Cor. 12. 13. ¹³ 1 Cor. 12. 13. ¹⁴ 1 Cor. 12. 13. ¹⁵ 1 Cor. 12. 13. ¹⁶ 1 Cor. 12. 13. ¹⁷ 1 Cor. 12. 13. ¹⁸ 1 Cor. 12. 13. ¹⁹ 1 Cor. 12. 13. ²⁰ 1 Cor. 12. 13. ²¹ 1 Cor. 12. 13. ²² 1 Cor. 12. 13. ²³ 1 Cor. 12. 13. ²⁴ 1 Cor. 12. 13. ²⁵ 1 Cor. 12. 13. ²⁶ 1 Cor. 12. 13. ²⁷ 1 Cor. 12. 13. ²⁸ 1 Cor. 12. 13. ²⁹ 1 Cor. 12. 13. ³⁰ 1 Cor. 12. 13.

some particular Brother shall think some other Catechism more convenient for his Congregation.) That so the Fundamentals of true Christian Religion, by one and the same Form of Sound Words (7) throughout the whole City and Province, may be rendred familiar both to young and old, yea to all the members of the Congregations; May be more easily Received, Firmly Retained, and advantageously improved for their spiritual benefit.

2 By encouraging the Elder sort, even all that have good knowledge and understanding in the Mysteries of the Gospel, together with Our selves, Explicitly to Profess (2) and declare, as occasion shall require, in some convenient way; 1. That they acknowledge and receive all the Holy Scriptures in the Books of the Old and New Testament, As inspired of God, and of infallible Authority, Resolving (by Gods Grace) to Submit themselves to be ordered and guided by them, as the perfect Rule of Faith and Life, in all things concerning their Persons, Families, and the Church of God 2. That they still retain that brief, but Ancient Profession, or Summe of Christian Faith, called the APOSTLES CREED (b); As being agreeable

The Apostles Creed is of very ancient use in the Churches under the N. Testament. Augustine expounds it 7 times, viz. 1. De Tempore, Serm. 115. De traditione Symboli, p. 849. Tom. 10 Basil. 1569. 2. De Tempore Serm. 129 p. 869 &c. Tom. 10 3. Et Serm. 125 pag. 872 &c. ibid. 4. Serm. 131 De Exposit. Symboli ad Competentes, p. 887, 888. Tom. 10 5. Et de Temp. Serm. 181, De Expositione Symboli, p. 989. Tom. 10, 6. In Lib. de Fide & Symbolo, p. 139, ad 151, Tom. 3. 7. In Lib. 4 De Symb. ad Catechumenas, p. 1094, ad 1139, Tom. 9. Others before Augustine also recite and mention it &c. As Origen: apud Hieron. Lib. adinit. Rufinus Aquileiensis Presbyter, in Exposit. apud Hieronym. in Tom. 4 p. 101, ad 116. Basil. 1553 Et etiam apud Cyprian. Tom. 3, p. 570. Scd. 20 Preuz. 1593. Tertullian. de Virginib. velandis Lib. p. 188 Franeker 1597 Et Lib. adversus Praxean, de Trinitat. C. 2 p. 494. Irenaeus Advrs. Hæreses, Lib. 1. Cap. 2 p. 50, 51, 52 Colon. 1596.

This is called the APOSTLES CREED, 1 More Conjecturally, by some of the Ancients, who say, It is a Tradition of the Elders; That after Christs Ascension, when the Holy Ghost fell upon the Apostles, enabling them to speak all manner of Languages, that they might Preach the Gospel to all Nations, before they departed one from another, to this work, They joyntly agreed upon a Rule of Faith, or Summe of

true Doctrine, which they would Preach, and so being altogether, and full of the Holy Ghost, they composed this Rule of Faith to be given unto Believers. *August. Serm. 181. de Tempore, Tom. 10. & Rufinus in Exposit. Symbol. apud Cyrilian. pag. 164. &c Tom 3.* 2. More certainly, by Modern writers, accounting it The APOSTLES CREED, because it is very consonant unto, and may evidently be confirmed by the Apostles Doctrine, recorded by them in the N. Testament.

to the word of God : which Creed they have long since Received. 3. And, That they receive and hold fast that excellent *CONFESSION* of *FAITH*, comprized in thirty and three Chapters, and compiled by the *Assembly of Divines* for these three Nations, As their own confession of Faith in all the said Congregations, (Reserving onely to some of us our Liberty of Judgment about a few expressions touching Discipline laid down in that confession) : It being, *A Form of Sound Words* very consonant to the Holy Scriptures; And of special use, Both for Preserving of the Purity and Unity of the Faith amongst us, and for Obviating of both Old and Novel Errors.

3. By managing all the Ordinances of Gods Publick Worship in the Church-Assemblyes, As; 1. Reading of the Holy Scriptures, though Exposition be not always added (c); 2. Expounding, or giving the Sense of the Scriptures Read (d); 3. Preaching the Word (e); 4. Catechizing in the Principles of the Doctrine of Christ (f); 5. Prayer (g); 6. Singing of Psalmes (h); 7. Administration of Baptisme, and of the Lords Supper (i); 8. And Blessing of the People in the name of the LORD (k); As neer as possibly we can to the unerring Standard of Gods Word (1). *Baptizing*

1 Cor. 1. 17. Luk. 9. 2. Eph. 3. 8. 1 Tim. 3. 2. 2 Tim. 3. 16, 17. Tit. 3. 9. f Heb. 5. 12, 13, 14. and 6. 1, 2. 1 Cor. 3. 1, 2. Gal. 6. 6. Joh 21. 15. 2 Acts 6. 2, 4. and 20. 36. 1 Tim. 2. 1, 2, 3. Jam. 5. 14, 15. 1 Cor 11. 4, 5. h Marth. 26. 20, 30 Col. 3. 16. Eph. 5. 19 (1 Cor. 11. 4, 5 Prophecying, by some is interpreted to intend Singing of Psalmes; compare 1 Chron. 25. 1, 2, 3) 1 Cor. 14. 15. i Marth. 28. 18, 19 Acts 2. 38, 39. and 8. 36, 37, 38, 39. and 10. 47, 48. and 16. 30, 31, 32, 33. 1 Cor. 1. 16. Col 2. 11, 12. Rom. 4. 11, 12. 1 Cor. 11. 17. to the end of the Chap. and 10. 15, 16, 17. Acts 20. 7. and 2. 41. 42. k Numb. 6. 23, 24, 25, 26. and Deut. 10. 8. compared with Rev. 1. 4, 5. 2. Cor. 13. 14. Eph. 1. 2. 1 2 Tim. 3. 16, 17. 1 Cor. 11. 23.

the Children^(m) of all such as are Members of true visible Churches of Christ, above described. And taking an especial heed to the due and Regular Dispensation of the **Lords-Supper**, which the Apostle sufficiently intimateth to be a Bared Ordinance⁽ⁿ⁾: whence Unbelievers and Unregenerate persons, so remaining, can reap no saving Benefit, but *Judgment to themselves*^(o); And whereunto Persons grossly Ignorant and Scandalous, either by customary or ordinary *Omission* of those known Dutyes of Christianity, Sanctification of the Lords-Daves, and Religious courses in Families; Or by *Commission* of any Scandalous Sin, Ought not to be admitted^(p). But onely such *visible Saints*, as having a competent knowledge of the mysteries of Christian Religion, and making an Holy profession of Repentance from dead Works, Faith in Christ, and Obedience to him, according to the Gospel-Rule of Repentance, Faith, and Obedience; do (in the Judgment of charity) walk answerably^(q). And in order herunto, We consent and agree, That the knowledge and conversations of all such as desire admission to the Lords-Supper be first duly enquired into, and found suitable to that Ordinance^(r). And if any person or persons after such *Admission* shall break out into Scandalous Sin, and thereof be convicted by 2 or 3 witnesses, or their own confession; That in this case, such shall by due *Censure* be secluded from the *Lords-Supper*^(s): Unless the Offence be discovered so immediately before the Lords-Supper, that the Minister dissatisfied in conscience can, for the present, onely suspend his own Act. And utterly laying aside the Antiquated *Service-Book* for the many Evils and Inexpediencies thereof^(t), We shall have an eye to the Substance, Sence, and Scope of the *DIRECTORY* for Gods Publick Worship^(u).

m Compare Gen. 7. 7. to 13. with Acts 2. 38. 39 Col. 2. 11, 12. Math. 28. 18, 19 Acts 16 30, 31, 32. 33. 1 Cor. 1. 16. Mark 10. 13, 14. n 1 Cor. 11. 28, 29, 30. and 10 21. o 1 Cor. 10. 1. to 12. and 11. 27, 28, 29, 30. p 1 Cor. 11. 27. to the end, compared with Math. 7. 6. and 1 Cor. 5. throughout, and Jude 23. q 1 Tim. 5. 22. r 1 Cor. 11. 29, 21, 21. compared with 2 Cor. 2. 7. s Compare 1 Cor. 11. 29 with Gal 6. 6 Math. 28. 29. Compare also 1 Cor. 11 27. to the end, with Math. 7. 6. and 1 Cor. 5. throughout, & Jude 23. and 1 Tim. 5 22 and Eph. 5. 11. and Acts 9. 26. to 32. t Math. 18. 15. to 21. 1 Cor. 5. throughout. Ezek. 22. 26. and 44. 23. Matt. 7. 6 u See, The Preface to the *DIRECTORY* for Gods publick worship. Read also, *The Anatomy of the Service-Book*. Published for the use and benefit of these three Nations, January, 3. Anno Dom. 1644.

4. By Exciting Christians to the frequent and fruitful Exercise of the more *Private COMMUNION* of *SAINTS* in all the mutual duties thereof (x); upon all occasions: And more especially at their Private meetings and conferences, managed in the most prudent, orderly, and profitable way (y); for their mutual *Edification in Faith and Love*, and *Provocation to all good Works* (z).

5. By Endeavouring to restore Into all the respective Congregations under our spiritual charge within this City and Province that *CHURCH-GOVERNMENT* and *Discipline*, which Jesus Christ hath appointed in his Holy Scriptures. And herein we declare our consent and agreement, as followeth;

(1.) That the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the *Head of the Church*, and is *Faithful in the House of God as Moses was*, hath declared and Revealed the whole Pattern of his House, by setting down and leaving upon Record in the Scriptures, a complete and perfect Platform of Church-Discipline in all the Essential parts thereof (a), Which is to be observed and kept inviolably till the second coming and *Appearing of Christ* (b), without any Additions or Inventions of men (c).

(2.) That the holy Government and Discipline, which Christ hath appointed in his Church. Requireth not only Christian watchfulness over the Walkings of Brethren (d), But also, 1. That such as Sin and go astray be *Admonished* and *Reproved* (e); 2. And impenitent Sinners *cast forth* and *Excommunicated* (f); 3. Who ought also upon Repentance to be *Restored* and *Received again* into communion with the Church (g).

(3.) That the End and use of Church Discipline and Censures, is, 1. For the Reclaiming and Gaining of Offending Brethren (h); 2. For the Preventing and Detering of others from the like Offences (i); 3. For *Purging out of that Leaven which might infect the whole Lump* (k); 4. For Vindicating the Honour of Christ, and the Holy Profession of the Gospel (l); And 5. For

* Mal. 3. 16.
17. Psal. 55.
14. Heb. 10.
24, 25. and 3.
17, 13. Phil.
2. 1, 2, 3, 4.
Y 1 Cor. 14.
26, 40.
2 Rom. 14. 19.
1 Thes. 5. 11.
Jude v. 20.
Eph. 4. 16.
Heb. 10. 24.
2 Isa. 9. 6.
Mat. 28. 18, &c.
Eph. 5. 23. &c.
1. 22, 23.
Heb. 3. 5, 6.
Exod. 25. 40.
1 Tim. 3. 14, 15.
1 Tim. 6. 13.
c Math. 15. 9.
d Acts 20. 28.
e Gal. 6. 1.
Mat. 5. 23, 24.
f 18. 15 to 21.
Mar. 18. 15.
16, 17, &c.
1 Cor. 5.
throughout, 3.
Thes. 3. 6, 14.
g 2 Cor. 2. 6.
to 12. Math.
18. 18, 19, 20.
h Math. 18.
15. 16, 17.
1 Cor. 5. 5.
Tim. 1. 20.
i 1 Tim. 5. 20.
k 1 Cor. 5. 6.
7. 8, 13.
l 1 Cor. 5. 7, 8.
Jude ver. 23.
Math. 7. 6.

Preventing the Wrath of God which might justly fall upon the Church, if they should suffer his Covenant and the Seals thereof to be Profaned by notorious and obstinate Offenders (m).

1 Cor. 11.
27, 28, 29, 30.
31, 32. This
whole Para-
graph is bor-
rowed from the
Assembly's
Confession of
Faith, Chap.
30. § III.

Eph. 4. 11.
Rom. 12. 7, 8.
Rom. 12. 8.
1 Cor. 12. 28.

1 Tim. 5. 17.
Acts 6. 1. to
Phil. 1. 1. 1

Tim. 3. 8 to 13
Acts 6. 1, 2.

1 Cor. 1. 17.
2 Tim. 4. 1, 2.

Tit. 2. 7, 8.
Rom. 12. 6,

7, 8. Matth. 28. 19, 20

1 Tim. 4. 11

2 Tim. 4. 2.

1 Rom. 15. 16.

2 Cor. 3. 6.

Matth. 28. 19, 20

Mark 16. 15, 16.

1 Cor. 11. 23, 24, 25

with 10. 16. * 1 Tim.

5. 17. 1 Thes. 5. 12.

Heb. 13. 7, 17

Acts 20. 28.

Y Rom. 12. 7, 8.

1 Cor. 12. 28.

1 Tim. 5. 17.

* Acts 6. 1, 2, 3, 4.

Rom. 12. 8.

1 Cor. 12. 28

* Heb. 5. 14.

Gal. 1. 1.

Acts 13. 1, 2.

3. 1 Tim. 4. 14.

Acts 14. 23 &
6. 3, 4, 5, 6.

1 Tim. 3. 1.

to 14. with

5. 12. Tit. 1. 5.

10. Acts 6. 3.

Rom. 13. 1.

1 Tim. 2. 3.

4. 14. Acts 14.

23. & 6. 3, 6.

Acts 14. 23.

Tit. 1. 5.

(4) That the Ordinary and standing Officers, which Christ hath appointed in his Church, for the Edifying and perfecting of his Body, are; *Pastors* and *Teachers* (n), *Ruling-Elders* (o) and *Deacons* (p)

(5) That the Work and Duty of the *Pastor* and *Teacher*, is; To attend upon the *Ministry of the Word* and *Prayer* (q), To Preach the Gospel (r). To Teach and to Exhort (s), and thence they are called Ministers of the Gospel (t); And To Administer the Seals of the Covenant (u); As also To Rule the Flock over which the Holy-Ghost hath made them *Overseers* (x).

(6) That the Work of the *Ruling-Elders* is to joyn with the Pastor and Teacher in Governing the Church (y). The Work of the *Deacons* is, concerning the Temporal good things of the Church, To receive the Church Treasury, and therewith to serve Tables, and particularly to Relieve the Poor (z).

(7) That these Officers are called by Christ himself (a), though not immediately (b). But by Men (c). Neither are any to be chosen and approved, but such as are judged to be fited and furnished by Christ with suitable Qualifications for the faithful discharge of the Work and Office committed to them (d).

(8) That the Solemn admission and Separation of Persons to the work of the Ministry, is to be performed by the Laying on of the Hands of the Presbytery with Fasting and Prayer (e). And it seems to us most fit (where it may conveniently be) that such persons be Ordained in the presence, and with the consent of the Congregation, where they are to Minister (f).

(11)

(9.) *That it's the duty of all the Churches & Ministers of Christ to Assist, Own, and Strengthen the Hands of each other in the ways of the LORD (g), And to Receive each other in the LORD to Christian and Church-communion (h); And to meet together in SYNODS and Assemblies of the Officers and Delegates of the Churches, if need require (i): Where they have power to Determine Difficulties and Controversies according to the word of God (k).*

(10.) *That there be many gracious Promises of the special Blessing and Presence of Christ in his Ordinances among his People, who walk together in the Faith, Love, and Order of the Gospel (l). And therefore those, that pretend to be above Ordinances; Or that live without Ordinances, when they have opportunity of Enjoying them; Or that pick and chuse among the Ordinances of Christ, (As, to desire Baptism for their Children, but never to desire the Lords-Supper for themselves; Or to desire the Sacraments, but to refuse and cast off the Yoke of Christ in Church-Discipline,) they do exceedingly wrong their own Souls, and Sin against their own comforts, by depriving themselves of that special Blessed Presence and Sweet communion with Christ, which is to be had in the communion of Saints (m).*

VI. *To enter into and walk together in a Brotherly ASSOCIATION one with another, Giving one to another the right hands of Fellowship, in a constant course of Mutual Advice, Encouragement and Assistance, for the more Effectual accomplishing of these excellent Necessary and Difficult things (n): That all our ways in Christ may be for Substance the same within all these Churches (o). Forasmuch as the mystical Body, the Church of Christ, is but one (p): therefore wee ought to maintain all possible oneness together, Dispatching our work, as much as may be, in joynt Union and Communion, in all the Publick Affairs of Christian Religion; Thus endeavouring to keep the Unity of the Spirit in the Bond of*

Gal. 1. 18.
21, 22, 23, 24.
and 1 9.
h Rom. 16. 1, 2.

i Acts 15. 1.
to 36.

k Acts 16. 6. to
36. Especially
see ver. 24, 28.
and 16. 4. 5.
l Exod. 20. 24.
1 Kin. 8. 28, 29.
30. with 9. 3.
Isa. 4. 5, 6.
Math. 18. 18,
19, 20. and
28. 19, 20.

m Song. 1. 7, 8.
and 4 16. and
5 1. 2 Cor. 6.
16, 17. 1 Cor.
10. 16, 17.
n Gal. 2. 9.
Luke 10. 1.

Acts 2. 1, 2,
3, 4, &c. and
3. 1. &c. and
5. 29. and 6. 2.
&c. and 8. 14.
&c. and 13. 1,
2, 3, 4. and
15. 6. to 36.
o 1 Cor. 4. 17.
Jer. 32. 39.
p 1 Cor. 12. 12,
13, to the end.
Rom. 15. 4, 5.
Eph. 2. 16. and
4. 4. Col. 3. 15.
Song. 6. 9.

4 Eph. 4. 1. to
6. 1 Cor. 1. 10
Phil. 1. 1. to 5

Peace in that one Church-Body (9), Now to this end We consent and Agree,

1. *That* We shall diligently frequent certain *Meetings*; More *General*, of the Brethren in this whole Province; And more *Particular*, of those in some Countyes and parts of this Province, As oft, and in such Places as We shall from time to time judge needful and expedient. And We shall endeavour so to make known the Times and Places of our *Meetings*, that all the Godly Brethren of the Ministry within the said Precincts may have Opportunity of Convening, and (which we earnestly desire) of *Associating* with us.

2 1 Tim. 4. 14.
and 5. 22.
Acts 13. 1, 2,
3. and 14. 23.
Titus 1. 5.
1 Tit. 1. 9, 10,
11, 12, 13, 14.
2 Tim. 1. 13.
1 Tim. 3. 2, 3.
Tit. 1. 7, 8.
1 Tim. 3.
4, 5.
1 Cor. 4. 1, 2.
Jer. 23. 28.
2 Cor. 2. 17.
2 Tim. 4. 1, 2.
Tit. 2. 7, 8.

2. *That* We shall readily Receive into this Fellowship, as Members, All the Brethren within the said *City* and *Province*, who are duly called into the Ministry by *Ordination* (1), Are *Sound in Faith* (2), Godly, Sober and unblameable in Life (3), Walking Religiously in their *Families* (4), Faithfully and industriously in their Ministerial Functions (x): They first tendering to the *Moderator* for the time being, At some *General Meeting*, or at some *Particular Meeting* according to Direction from the *General*, **A TESTIMONIAL** of Their Soundness in the Faith, Blamelessness of Life, and Laboriousness in the Ministry, under the Hands of two Ministers of known integrity, especially of those that are *Associated*; And of two or three Godly Christians of the same Congregation, or of the vicinity, well known to some of the Associated Brethren. And all that shall be *Ordained PRESBYTERS* by this *Association* for any Ministerial charge within this Province, shall thereupon be Received as Members of this *Association*: Both these, and the former Subscribing to this our *Agreement*. Nevertheless the *Associated Brethren* shall Reserve to themselves a Liberty for Admitting any Orthodox Godly Brother, Declaring his intent on to be *Regularly Ordained* as soon as may be, to joyn with Us in Our *Association* as farre as he is capable.

3. *That* at Our first *General Meeting* We shall choose one

one of Our number to be *MODERATOR*; for, Propounding of Matters Taking of Suffrages, Preventing of Disorders, and Managing all Discourses and conferences with due Gravity, Decency, Order, and to the utmost Edification (y): Who shall still begin and conclude Our Transactions at every Meeting with *Prayer*, for the *L O R D's* Assistance, Blessing and Acceptance (z). And at the close of that, and every such Conference, General or Particular, We shall still determine upon the Subject-Matter, Time, Place, and another Moderator for the next Meeting.

4. That also at our first General Meeting one of the Brethren Associated, which shall be deemed fittest, shall be chosen *Scribe or Register*. Who shall enter this Our Agreement into a Book forthwith, that it may be Subscribed; Shall carefully File up and keep all the forementioned *Testimonials*; Shall enter all our Resolves and Determinations; and Shall Register all Our Proceedings with all that shall present themselves to Us for *Ordination* (a), Keeping safe their *Testimonials*, and Providing all such *Instruments in Writing* as are requisite thereunto: That any of these may be produced before the Brethren upon all just Occasions.

5. That no discourses about *Admission* or *Non-Admission* of any Minister into this Society shall be blazed abroad by any Brother to the Prejudice of the Association, or of any Member thereof.

6. That all Disputes about lesser Points in difference, held by any Brethren Agreeing in the Main, be wholly declined in all our Meetings (b). Unless some Brother shall Conscientiously desire satisfaction from the Association in any such Particular: which shall be endeavoured with all clearness of Argument and sweetness of Spirit (c).

7. That All usurpation of Authority, Authoritative coercion, Domination or Jurisdiction, and all exercise thereof by the Brethren one over another in this Association be utterly disclaimed, abandoned and abhorred (d).

8. That

y 1 Cor. 14. 36.
40. Tit. 1. 7. 8.

z 1 Tim. 2. 8.
and 4. 4. 5.
1 Thel. 5. 17.
18. Eph 6.
18, 19, 20.
Acts 6. 2.

a 1 Tim. 4. 14.
and 5. 22.
Rom. 13. 1, 2, 3.
Tit. 1. 5.
Heb. 5. 4.

b Acts 15. 37.
38, 39. Phil.
2. 1. 2, 3, 4.
and 3. 16.

c Acts 15. 7.
to 21. Eph. 4.
1, 2, 3, &c. I
Pet. 3. 8. Phil.
2. 1, 2, 3, 4.

d Mat. 23. 11,
12. Mark 9.
31. to 38. Luk.
9. 46. 47, 48.
and 22. 24. to
28. 1 Pet. 5. 3.
3 Joh. v. 9. 10.

8. *That* All giving of just Offence to those that are in Power and Authority over us in the Commonwealth, by our intermeddling beyond the Duty and limits of our calling with civil and Commonwealth-Affairs, be most studiously avoided in all our Transactions (e).

¶ Matt. 17. 27.
1 Cor. 10. 32.
2 Cor. 6. 3.
Acts 24. 16.
1 Cor. 7. 20.

9. *And finally, That* We shall none of us withdraw ourselves from this Brotherly Fellowship, without great and weighty causes: Nor shall We at any time Neglect or forbear to come to th: General or Particular Meetings, which shall be from time to time appointed, without very urgent occasions.

¶ Phil. 3. 16.
¶ John 16. 13.
h 1 Thes. 3. 2.
Philem. 24.
Col. 3. 2.
Rom. 14. 19.
Jude, vers. 19.

And in all these things, We whose Names are hereunto Subscribed, have Unanimously agreed, *To walk by the same Rule, and to minde the same thing* (f). Beseeching the LORD to lead us by his Spirit into all truth (g), That as *Fellow labourers* in the Gospel of Christ We may make a Brotherly improvement of each others Advice and Assistance, that our Hearts may be comforted being knit together in Love, whilst we are following the things which make for Peace and wherewith We may Edify one another in Our most Holy Faith (h).

Consentimus nos infra-scripti

F I N I S.